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A90WX (WIDOWS, GOP)
BY GARDNER L. BRIDGE

CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON, MARCH 4 (AP)-MYSTERY CONTINUED TONIGHT TO SHROUD THE SOURCE OF CHECKS BEING RECEIVED REGULARLY BY TWO WIDOWS OF FOUR AMERICAN AIRMEN WHO FAILED TO RETURN FROM THE 1961 INVASION OF CUBA.

SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER, R-ARIZ., SAID HE EXPECTS THERE WILL BE A SENATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PAYMENTS COME "FROM WEALTHY CUBANS OR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OR SOME OTHER SOURCE."

GOLDWATER TOLD A REPORTER THE STORY THUS FAR "LOOKS LIKE A COVERUP" OF THE REAL FACTS.

THE CLOSEST THING TO AN EXPLANATION OF THE $225 CHECKS WHICH THE FOUR WOMEN RECEIVE EVERY TWO WEEKS WAS OFFERED BY ALKI E. CARLTON, MIAMI SPRINGS, FLA., ATTORNEY WHO REPORTED THE FLIERS' DISAPPEARANCE TO THEIR WIVES.

CARLSON SAID THE PAYMENTS COME FROM A TRUST FUND AUTHORIZED BY THE AIRMEN'S EMPLOYER AND WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS THE WIDOWS DO NOT REMARRY.

THE ATTORNEY SAID HE REPRESENTED DOUBLE CHECK CORP., WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A SORT OF BROKER THAT FOUND THE MEN FOR A CENTRAL AMERICAN ANTI-CASTRO GROUP, WHICH HIRED THEM.

CARLSON SAID THE GROUP "HAS SORT OF DISBANDED" AND HE IS NOT AT LIBERTY TO IDENTIFY IT.

"THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GROUP AUTHORIZED DOUBLE CHECK TO SET UP A TRUST FUND FOR PAYMENTS IN CASE THE MEN DIED," HE SAID. "NOW THE WIDOWS RECEIVE THESE DISBURSEMENTS."

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THE ATTORNEY SAID HE WANTED IT KNOWN THAT THE FOUR AIRMEN "NEVER WERE CONSIDERED SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE."

"THEY KNEW THEY WERE GOING INTO HAZARDOUS DUTY, INVOLVING ANTI-CASTRO TASKS," HE SAID, "BUT WERE MOTIVATED BOTH BY THEIR BELIEFS, AND BY ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION."

AT FIRST THE PAYMENTS TO THE WIDOWS CAME FROM DOUBLE CHECK, BUT THIS WAS CHANGED IN THE SUMMER OF 1961 AND THE CHECKS HAVE BEEN ISSUED SINCE BY THE BANKERS TRUST CO. OF NEW YORK.

THE BANKERS TRUST CO. SAID IT HAS NOTHING TO SAY EXPECT THAT IT HAS AN ACCOUNT WITH DOUBLE CHECK.

"BUT WE CAN'T SAY ANYTHING MORE ABOUT PAYMENTS FROM THIS ACCOUNT THAN WE WOULD ABOUT PAYMENTS FROM ANY OTHER ACCOUNT," A BANK SPOKESMAN SAID. HE ADDED:

"WE NEVER GIVE OUT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACCOUNT OF ANY CUSTOMER."

SEN. EVERETT M. DIRKSEN, R-ILL., WHO HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A PERSONAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CUBAN INVASION ATTEMPT, SAID HE THINKS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHO IS MAKING THE PAYMENTS "WILL ALL SHOW UP IN GOOD TIME."

DIRKSEN DECLINED TO ANSWER WHEN ASKED IF HE HAS ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MAY HAVE FINANCED THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE FOUR BIRMINGHAM, ALA., FLIERS.

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THREE OF THE WIDOWS STILL LIVE IN THE BIRMINGHAM AREA. THEY ARE MRS. THOMAS WILLARD RAY, MRS. WADE C. GRAY, AND MRS. RILEY W. SHAMBURGER, JR. THE FOURTH, MRS. LEE F. BAKER, NOW LIVES IN SUBURBAN LOS ANGELES.

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